

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 remain pending in this application.

In this Preliminary Amendment, the specification and claims have been amended to correct obvious errors of grammatical and typographical nature.

Specifically, page 10, lines 3-4 and claims 11 and 13 have been amended to correct the typographical error in octadecyl 3-(3',5'-di-t-butyl-4'-hydroxy-phenyl)propionate. The correction of the moiety "buty" to --butyl-- involves standard nomenclature that would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Page 10, lines 6-7 and claim 12 have been amended to correct the typographical error in cyclic neopentetetrayl bis(octad[a]ecyl phosphite). The correction of the moiety "octadacyl" to --octadecyl-- involves standard nomenclature that would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art.

The amendments to claims 3 and 17 address a minor nomenclature issue.

Applicants have amended Table 1 to correct the weight ratios for Examples 4 and 6. The original errors and these corrections would have been obvious to a skilled artisan. In Table 1, Example 4 includes three materials, i.e., (a)/(d)/(b). Accordingly, the weight ratio must be representative of all three materials, i.e., x:y:z. However, Table 1 recites a weight ratio of 1:1. Clearly and obviously, the recited weight ratio is incomplete. Similarly, Example 6 of Table 1 includes two materials, i.e., (a)/(c), but sets forth a weight ratio of 2:1:1 for three materials. Clearly and obviously, the recited weight ratio is in error.

The correct values for Examples 4 and 6 also would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art for the following reasons. First, a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily observed from Table 1 that each of examples 2-7 were intended

to have a weight ratio of material (a) to materials (b)-(d) of 1:1. Second, the skilled artisan would have recognized that the errors occurred and could be rectified by switching the weight ratios for Examples 4 and 6. Third, the corrected weight ratios for Examples 4 and 6 are identical to the other weight ratios reported in Table 1. Stated differently, all of the other 2-component examples in Table 1 have a weight ratio of 1:1. The other 3-component example in Table 1 has a weight ratio of 2:1:1.

Applicants have amended Tables 5 and 6 to change Comparative Examples 2 and 2 to Comparative Examples 4 and 5, respectively. Applicants respectfully submit that this error and its correction would have been obvious to a skilled artisan. Page 12, lines 10-19 state that Tables 5 and 6 set forth results for “[e]ach polymer composition shown in Tables 2 and 3.” Comparative Example 2 is a “stabilizer composition,” not a “polymer composition.” Further, Tables 5 and 6 set forth results for the compositions of Table 2 and 3; however, Comparative Example 2 is not found in Tables 2 and 3. Additionally, Table 2 lists Examples 8-13 and Comparative Examples 4 and 5. It follows that Tables 5 and 6, which list the results for Examples 8-13, would logically mirror Tables 2 by including the results for Comparative Examples 4 and 5.

Table 6 has also been amended to correct an obvious error in a subheading.

Finally, Example 14 in Table 7 includes an obvious typographical error, i.e., a value of “-1.0.87”. A person having ordinary skill in the art would have understood the use of two decimal points to be a typographical error, and would have found obvious that the correct value should have been either “-1.87” or “-0.87”. A comparison of Example 14 against the other Examples 15-19 of Table 7 would have made obvious that the correct value was “-0.87”. For example, compare Examples 14 and 15, which are immediately adjacent one another in Table 7. After the second extrusion, Examples 14 and 15 had b values of -1.66

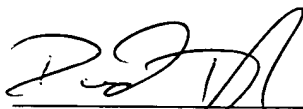
and -1.86, respectively. That is, the -1.66 b value of Example 14 was 0.2 greater than the -1.86 b value of Example 15. A person having ordinary skill in the art would have expected a similar relationship to exist the fifth extrusion. Example 15 produced a fifth extrusion b value of -1.07. Extrapolating for Example 14, the skilled artisan would have expected a fifth extrusion b value of about -0.87, which is exactly 0.2 greater than the b value for Example 15.

For all of these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments, being obvious in nature, are appropriate and suitable for entry. *See* MPEP § 2163.07. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request approval and entry of the amendments presented above to the specification and claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that this Preliminary Amendment has been filed prior to issuance of an Office Action on the merits or Notice of Allowance. Accordingly, it is believed that a Petition or extension fee is required. Should the Patent Office determined that a Petition or fee be necessary for consideration and entry of this Preliminary Amendment, then please accept this paper as a petition for extension and charge the missing/deficient fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 50-0548.

If, after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned, by telephone, to schedule an interview to address such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. S. Taylor', written over a horizontal line.

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